



UPTON-ON-SEVERN.

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

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R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1943.

BY

M. J. QUIRKE, M.B., Ch. B., D. P. H.

WITH


THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

BY

H. E. FIRTH, Cert. Royal San. Ins.

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UPTON-ON-SEVERN RURAL DISTRICT.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1943.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

War-time restrictions and difficulties once again impose a limit upon the scope and length of this Report and I am trying to confine it to a recital of facts which may be of interest or of use.

Vital Statistics.

The birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population was 14.45, the rate for England and Wales was 16.5.

The still-birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births was 26.0.

For each 1000 of resident population the rate was 0.38 (England and Wales 0.51.)

The death-rate per 1000 of the resident population was 13.75 (England and Wales 12.1.)

No comparability factor is available for 1943.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1000 live-births 21.3 (England & Wales 49.0.)

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live-births 23.6.

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births NIL.

Deaths in this group were due to prematurity or to congenital defect.

Deaths from Cancer at all ages numbered 18.

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough or Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years of age).

There was no unusual or excessive mortality.

Tuberculosis (all forms). The notification rate for the District was 1.4 per 1000 of the estimated resident population and the death rate 0.54. Both figures are higher than those of the preceding year but not to a significant extent.

Just under half of those notified were lung cases.





## Notifications of Infectious Diseases:-

The total number received and recorded was 123. Of these a few were found to be just outside the District boundary. The table appended shows the distribution according to age groups. Cases of Tuberculosis and changes in diagnosis are omitted from the Table.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

In order to obviate the accumulation of arrears I voluntarily gave up a day to this work in February. The County Medical Officer kindly provided a nurse and the clerical work was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector's Office staff. 106 children were dealt with and this necessitated visiting five schools, no other places being available for assembling the children.

A month later 96 were dealt with in the same manner. In September the County Medical Officer allowed me to devote a session to immunisation and on this occasion he made use of Ambulance Transport to assemble children from five schools at two points, thus saving time otherwise lost in moving from place to place, packing up and unpacking apparatus and restarting the sterilizer. In the case of one small school the notices went astray and altogether only 43 children were collected. Five weeks later this procedure was repeated and 42 children were collected and treated. As far as can be ascertained the total number of children who underwent the full course during 1943 was 242, made up as follows:-

District or County Staff.....125.

(This figure is the result of four sessions held by the Medical Officer of Health as a personal contribution and of two sessions held in lieu of other County work).

Practitioners, under the District Scheme.....62

Privately treated.....55

These figures take no account of children who, for any reason, failed to complete the course of treatment during the year.

I think the total is satisfactory.



It is agreed that immunisation is a new duty and so cannot become part of the routine work of a Medical Officer of Health, all of whose time is not taken up by work for one or more local Authorities. On the other hand, as it is my duty to advocate immunisation, I prefer it to be clear that I derive no financial benefit from its performance. At present lists of births are provided by the "Milk Officer". A "Consent Form" is sent to the parents of each child on its attaining the age of 9 months. On each card is a space for the name of the usual Medical Attendant. After their return these cards are sent to the Doctors concerned who fill in details of dosage dates etc., and return them to the Council Office. Fees are paid without further claim.

The fee is fixed on a dosage basis in order to include cases where a first or a final dose only has been given and so that no alteration may be necessary, should it ever become practicable to immunise children effectively by means of a single injection.

Immunising material is supplied free and the agreed fee covers travelling expenses.

A great amount of clerical work is involved and this can only be carried out by the Sanitary Inspector's Office Staff.

The success or failure of the scheme depends entirely on the co-operation of General Practitioners in the District and I should like to express my gratitude to those who have done their best to make it a success.

The only alternatives would appear to be either a mobile Immunizing Unit which would cover a large area, working under the County Authority or a whole-time Medical Officer of Health endowed with an office and <sup>clerical</sup> staff. Such an Officer would be in a position to plan and carry out all immunisation in his area or Districts.

General. Insulin Circular 2734. No application for supply at a reduced rate has been received.

Venereal Diseases. Posters and leaflets have been distributed as occasion offered. I have not heard of any increase in incidence.

Small-pox Isolation. In connection with the proposal to abolish the buildings and site and to join in the County Scheme, I submitted







a special report in March.

Scabies. A few cases were admitted to Tolladine Hospital under arrangements made with the County Medical Officer but most were treated at their homes. There does not seem to have been any widespread prevalence.

Tuberculosis. A Medical Practitioner in the District suspected milk from a certain source as the cause of Tubercular Adenitis in children. I referred the matter to the Principal Regional Medical Officer, in case a special investigation might be judged necessary. In the end it was referred to the County Veterinary Officer. In 1941 I referred a similar case in the same area. No official report of action taken was received in either case but I understand that in 1941 one cow was eliminated from the herd.

Epidemic Nausea. A small out-break for which this title might serve, occurred at Longdon in April. About 10 children and five adults were affected. There was no common milk or water supply. In three instances there were two cases in one family. No one was very ill and recovery was rapid and complete.

Milk. Suspecting, but being unable to prove, a connection between the occurrence of cases of para-typhoid fever in another area and milk produced at one small cowshed in this District the supply was diverted, with the help of the County Medical Officer and the Milk Marketing Board, to a pasteurizing centre and an alternative supply was provided for the Dairy implicated. The out-break ceased. This procedure should prove to be of great use in checking out-breaks where milk is thought to be the distributor of infection.

Influenza. Six deaths occurred during the last Quarter of the year. An arrangement was made with the Head of the Women's Voluntary Services in the District, by which on application by a Doctor or District Nurse, Village Representatives would try to furnish voluntary helpers to cope with house work and/or shopping, or would contact Red Cross or St. John's Ambulance Brigade Representatives when nursing help was needed. Although it was not unusual for several members of one household to be ill at the same time, their incapacity was generally of short duration and the out-break itself did not endure very long. Influenza not being notifiable I have no figures. Our thanks are due to all who helped.



NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE 1943.

Disease.	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 and over.
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	26	-	-	4	3	2	12	2	1	2	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever (in cluding Paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-
Erysipelas.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles.	57	1	3	3	5	4	36	3	1	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	5	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	5	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
	101	1	4	8	10	7	53	5	5	3	3	2	0







Sanitary Circumstances.

The one Sanitary Inspector has so many other duties that he is unable to furnish me with the statement due under Art. 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order (1926) in reasonable time: I can therefore write no comment on it but presume that it will appear as an Addendum to this Report.

M. J. QUIRKE.

Medical Officer of Health.

8th July, 1944.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

YEAR 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a brief report as your Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1943.

Again war conditions have compelled limitations in the scope of some of the Inspector's duties. The extreme shortage of labour and materials made it practically impossible to improve the housing conditions and even repair work had to be minimized, with the unfortunate result that existing housing conditions are depreciating. The Ministry of Health were fully aware of this point and by Circulars 2845 and 2871 issued during the later part of the year it became possible to spend on essential repairs etc., up to a sum of £250. This action will help, but in Rural Areas the labour difficulties for works of repair are and possibly will remain acute.

It is pleasing to note that the improved farming conditions have in a number of instances given an incentive to improve the conditions of cowsheds and the production of a higher grade of milk. In quite a number of cases have I in the company of the County Sanitary Officer, and upon request, visited and advised on the requirements for the production of Grade A. Milk. In conclusion I should like to record my apologies to yourselves and the Medical Officer for the delay in producing this brief report, but my other duties which increased during these years are the sole cause for the delay.



### Infectious Disease Prevention.

Visits to premises for investigation ... ..	25
Premises disinfected after notifiable disease ..	33
Premises disinfected after other diseases .. ..	5

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

#### Year 1943.

<u>1 to 5 yrs.</u>	<u>5 to 15 yrs.</u>	<u>Total during period.</u>
172	70	242
<u>Total, Year 1940 - 43 (inclusive.)</u>		
612	1192	1804

Excluding the outbreak of Measles no epidemic existed, the 26 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at intervals in various parts of the area and generally investigations provided little or no help in tracing the infection.

A few cases of Scabies were reported and four persons were given hospital treatment.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Parishes supplied by piped supply:-

Large portion of Upton-on-Severn Parish (Source; deep artesian bore)  
Small part of Powick Parish including County & City Mental Hospital, (Source, Worcester City supply).  
Small part of Newland Parish (Source, Malvern U.D.C. Supply).  
Large part of Madresfield Parish, (Source, private estate supply.)

No. of samples submitted from private well supplies for analysis ... ..	18
No. of such samples unfit or quoted "suspicious" . ...	13
No. of new wells sunk as the result of informal action .	1
No. cleaned and repaired as result of informal action .	5

A complaint was lodged that a stream supplying drinking water for cattle was highly coloured and possibly dangerous for cattle drinking purposes. The pollution was stated to be possibly caused through some material deposited on the Council Refuse Tip.

Upon inspection I immediately suspected Fluorescein as the causative agent, and upon analysis this was proved and the Analyst stated that the amount of Fluorescein in the water was insufficient to cause danger to the animals.



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The investigation proved that the powder did not gain access to the stream whilst passing through Council property.

### Inspection and Supervision of Foodstuffs.

#### Slaughter Houses.

No. of inspections of Slaughter House used as Ministry of Food Allocation Centre ... ..	13
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No. of inspections of Butcher's Shops ... ..	21
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Generally the Butcher's Shops and premises are kept in a very clean condition. Four shops have modern refrigerators and during summer months as much meat as possible is stored therein. It is interesting to note that although the animals may have been killed on the Monday, transported from the place of slaughter to the Upton Allocation Centre, again handled and transported to the various shops throughout the area and possibly not eaten until the Sunday, very few complaints were received of meat showing signs of decomposition.

#### Bakehouses.

No. of Bakehouses in area .... ..	9
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No. of inspections ... ..	14
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Most Bakehouses are kept in a fairly clean condition and especially considering labour difficulties, unfortunately most of the premises are without piped water supply with the obvious result that the baker's washing facilities are not as would be desired.

#### Cowshed and Dairies.

No. of inspections of premises... ..	49
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No. of Milk Samples taken for bacterial Count ...	5
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#### Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

No. of T.T. Producers ... ..	11
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No. of Grade A. Producers .... ..	25
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No. of Pasteurized Producers .. ...	1
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During the year welcomed improvements were made at the rather large Pasteurizing Factory. Entirely new plant was gradually installed including High Temperature Short Time Plant, large mechanical bottle washer and bottling machine, and the buildings were improved to house such plant and to more efficiently



receive and deal with incoming milk deliveries. Tests were made of the Pasteurizer upon completion and shortly after coming into service a milk sample taken. Periodical visits have been made whilst the plant was in operation and in process of cleaning.

#### Analyst's Report.

Sample from T.A. Tilt & Sons, 1/6/43.

Colony Count of Bacteria 500 per Mil.

Presumptive Coli Test Absent in 1, 1/10th, 1/100th, and 1/1000th mil.

The sample passed the phosphatase test 2.0 blue units.

#### Unsound Food.

Bacon ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73 lbs.
Miscellaneous Tinned Foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	528 Tins.
Eggs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5½ Doz.
Butter .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Chocolate (Block)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Suet	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 lbs.

The fact that no Butcher's Meat was considered unfit gives proof of the care and efficient examination carried out by the City Meat Inspector, Mr. H. Glendenning, at the Central Slaughter House.

#### HOUSING.

Fortunately prior to the war much housing work had been undertaken throughout the area, but there still remained a number of houses ~~still~~ requiring examination and even a few houses with Demolition Orders thereon could not be dealt with as alternative accommodation did not then exist although schemes for the erection of houses were well in hand.

War conditions especially after the first year enforced grave limitations on housing repair work, with the result that little could be done in this direction. During the year only upon complaint were houses inspected and then the Owners were asked to undertake the essential repairs.

Nine such complaints were investigated and in each case eventually my requests were complied with.

#### House Drainage and Sewage.







### House Drainage & Sewage.

Drains laid or re-laid ... .. approx. 400 yds.  
Drains tested ... .. " " "  
Lengths of unobstructive drains dealt with ... 9 lengths.

### Sewerage.

The sanitary conditions at the Bastonford and Bowling Green areas of Powick became more serious. In places crude sewage is entering open ditches, the temporary installed septic tanks built by the Council are causing trouble and the sewage effluent from the Mental Hospital is far from satisfactory. It is therefore hoped that the proposed sewerage scheme which is held up by the emergency will be installed as soon as ever possible.

The existing conditions in certain other parishes call for improvement as soon as ever possible and especially at the parishes of Severn Stoke, Newland, Ripple, Welland and Madresfield.

### Other Matters.

Offensive Trades ... ..	None in Area.
Common Lodging Houses ... ..	-do-
Rats and Mice Destruction Act ..	3 cases notified and dealt with.
Nuisance arising from keeping of domestic animals.	One case of nuisance caused by pig keeping investigated and dealt with.

### Public Cleansing & Salvage.

Area served by Scheme ... ..	Whole District approx. 85% of Dwellings.
Frequency of collection ... ..	Fortnightly.

### Salvage Sold During Year Ending December 1943.

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qtrs.</u>
Waste Paper ... ..	54	7	1
Bones ... ..	6	1	2
Rags ... ..	6	3	0
Sacking ... ..	3	16	0
Non Ferrous Metals ..	-	5	2
Ferrous ... ..	22	2	3
Rubber ... ..	14	5	1
Tins ... ..	29	15	3
Bottles		104½ Doz.	

I am Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. E. FIRTH.

Sanitary Inspector.

